Proclamation

Presented

In Recognition of
Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month provides an opportunity to share important information about esophageal cancer, including awareness that it on average kills one American every 36 minutes and ranks seventh as the cause of cancer deaths among men; and

WHEREAS, Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month highlights that esophageal cancer risk is estimated to be 1 in 125 for men and 1 in 400 for women, and this year will be the cause of approximately 15,000 deaths, of which most will be individuals between the ages of 45 and 70; and

WHEREAS, Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month serves to share information with the public about symptoms, which may include difficulty swallowing, chest pain, unexplained weight loss, fatigues, choking while eating, indigestion, vomiting, persistent hiccups and hoarseness – or frequently no symptoms at all; and

WHEREAS, Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month also warns that risk factors include drinking alcohol, chewing tobacco, obesity, drinking extremely hot liquids, bile reflux, gastro-esophageal reflux disease (GERD), smoking, Barrett's esophagus, radiation to the upper abdomen or chest, eating foods preserved in lye, and eating too few fruits and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month reminds us that, since symptoms do not usually occur until the later stages, treatment options carry a poor survival rate; in the United States, the five-year survival rate is 17 percent;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and **I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor** for the State of Hawaiʻi, do hereby proclaim April, 2013, as

"ESOPHAGEAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH"

in Hawaiʻi and encourage the people of the Aloha State to join us learn as much as they can about esophageal cancer.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawaiʻi, this fifteenth of March, 2013.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawaiʻi

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor, State of Hawaiʻi